

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
FEA-01 INT-05 /055 W
-----041154Z 020535 /11

R 041044Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9946
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0943

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, SW, NO
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN-SWEDISH COMMITTEE ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL
COLLABORATION REPORT

1. SWEDISH PRESS ON MARCH 4 REPORTS THE ENDORSEMENT IN OSLO OF
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY NILS ASLING AND HIS NORWEGIAN COUNTERPART
BJARTMAR GJERDE, AND SWEDISH MINISTER FOR ENERGY OLOF JOHANSSON,
OF AN ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION REPORT. THE REPORT,
OF WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS THE SWEDISH TEXT, WAS PREPARED BY THE
"NORWEGIAN-SWEDISH COMMITTEE." IT OUTLINES AREAS WHERE THE
TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT COOPERATE, THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF PRIVATE
COMPANIES, IN STEEL, ALUMINUM, AUTOS, ELECTRONICS, PULP,
PETRO-CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.

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2. PRESS COMMENT IS TO THE EFFECT THAT DISCUSSIONS OF
POSSIBLE COLLABORATION, BEGUN SOME TIME AGO UNDER THE
FORMER GOVERNMENT, WERE TO HAVE RESULTED IN AN INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL UMBRELLA AGREEMENT. THE FALLDIN GOVERN-
MENT NOW PREFERS APPARENTLY TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE
LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF COMPANIES.

3. COMMENT: SWEDEN, POOR IN LOCAL ENERGY SOURCES, CLEARLY HAS A DEEP AND PERSISTING INTEREST IN SISTER NORWAY'S OIL AND IN COLLABORATING IN THE MANY SPIN-OFF EFFECTS OF NORWEGIAN OIL EXPLOITATION. THE AGREEMENT "EN PRINCIPE" WILL ALLOW SWEDISH INTERESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING NORWEGIAN OIL FIELD DEVELOPMENT. THE DECISION TO LEAVE MAJOR INITIATIVE TO PRIVATE FIRMS IS A REFLECTION NOT ONLY OF THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT'S PROCLIVITIES TO FAVOR PRIVATE INITIATIVE MORE THAN DID THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, BUT ALSO AVOIDS THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS AT A TIME OF HEAVY DEFICITS AND VARIOUS SUBSIDIES TO SEVERAL AILING SWEDISH INDUSTRIES.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH00943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0177
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770390/aaaadbttel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6d012bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3201538
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN-SWEDISH COMMITTEE ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION REPORT
TAGS: ECIN, ENRG, SW, NO, (ASLING, NILS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6d012bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009